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of a bioabsorbable material, comprising a single hollow shaft having a central longitudinal axis, said hollow shaft having a truncated conical penetration head at its front end, and a flexible member at its rear end, said flexible member having a [diameter] width in at least one dimension larger than the [diameter] largest width of said hollow shaft and sufficiently flexible so as to be capable of deforming so as to conform to [the] an angle of insertion of said rivet into the tissue [and the rivet] and capable of deforming so as to conform to the surface of the tissue in which said rivet is inserted, said hollow shaft having a plurality of spaced, separate, flexible projections extending radially from said hollow shaft, [each] at least one of said plurality of flexible projections capable of flexing toward said shaft when being inserted in the tissue [and extending at a height from said shaft, said height being a dimension larger than the largest dimension of the head of said shaft], at least a portion of said flexible projections extending a distance from the central axis of said shaft greater than the width of said flexible member.

20. (amended) The rivet of claim 19 in combination with a driving means, said driving means comprising a rod having an outer diameter smaller than the inside diameter of the hollow shaft of said rivet and an upper handle portion having a diameter larger than the inside diameter of the hollow shaft of said rivet, said rod having a tapered tip, said tip forming the same angle as the angle of the conical penetration head of said rivet, whereby when the rod is fitted within the hollow shaft of the rivet, the surface of the tip of said driving means forms a smooth transition with said conical penetration head of the rivet.

21. (amended) The combination rivet and driving means [rivet] of claim 20 in which the length of said rod from the handle to said tapered tip is the length of said rivet.

22. (amended) The tissue rivet of claim 19 in which there are

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at least five [such] said flexible projections.

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24. (amended) The tissue rivet of claim 23 in which each of said flexible projections has an apex measured from the central longitudinal axis of said hollow shaft, in which no more than two said apexes of said flexible projections are in one plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of said shaft at any point along said shaft, whereby the maximum width of said rivet does not exceed the sum of said apexes to facilitate the insertion of said rivet through an opening in the tissue in which said rivet is inserted.

Please add the following new claim:

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28. (new) A tissue rivet for holding two pieces of tissue together and to prevent movement of said rivet in the tissue made of a bioabsorbable material comprising a single hollow shaft having a central longitudinal axis, said hollow shaft having a truncated conical penetration head at its front end, and a flexible member at its rear end, said flexible member having a width in at least one dimension larger than the largest width of said hollow shaft and sufficiently flexible so as to be capable of deforming so as to conform to an angle of insertion of said rivet into the tissue and capable of deforming so as to conform to the surface of the tissue in which said rivet is inserted, said hollow shaft having a plurality of spaced, separate, flexible projections extending radially from said hollow shaft.

REMARKS

Claim 25 has been cancelled from the Application. New claim 28 has been added drawn to a rivet comprising a flexible member at its rear end that is sufficiently flexible so as to be capable of deforming so as to conform to the angle of insertion of the rivet into the tissue and capable of deforming so as to conform to the surface of the tissue in which said rivet is inserted. The subject matter of claim 28 was previously recited in claim 19. No new matter has been added. Upon review of the prior art cited by